

**APPROVED JUNE 18, 2015**

The work session of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners was held on May 21, 2015 in the Kahle Community Center, Rubicon Room, 236 Kingsbury Grade, Stateline, Nevada beginning at 12:00 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Doug N. Johnson, Chairman; Nancy McDermid, Vice Chairwoman; Greg Lynn, Commissioner; and Steve Thaler, Commissioner. Barry Penzel, Commissioner arrived late.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Captain David Aymami, DCSO; Doug Ritchie, Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney; Jim Nichols, County Manager; Carl Ruschmeyer, Public Work Director; Tim DeTurk, Superintendent Utility System; Nick Charles, Civil Engineer III; Kathy Lewis, Clerk-Treasurer; Vicki Moore, Accountant; Laure Penny, Clerk to the Board and Debbie Beam, Office Manager.

**INVOCATION**

Not held.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Nancy McDermid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**1. For presentation only. Emergency drought contingency plan for the County's Lake Tahoe Water Systems; authorizing the Public Works Director to implement mandatory water conservation measures, as identified in the County's Water Conservation Plan, to meet water supply requirements.**

Nick Charles, Civil Engineer III, presented an overview of drought conditions and the impact it is having on the Lake and the Water Systems. He stated 18% of Nevada is in an extreme drought. In September the Governor issued a declaration to establish the Nevada Drought Forum. The purpose of the Forum is to look at drought issues within the State and develop policy, needs and conservation practices that could be implemented to help improve the situation. Douglas County Public Works has received a request from the Forum to provide feedback on what we are doing as a water system to address drought issues.

Mr. Charles provided historical Lake levels data going back as far as 1961. He commented when the Lake reaches its natural rim no water flows out. Usually the

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Lake drops in the Fall but comes back in the Spring. That did not happen this year and it could take at least a year or more to recover.

Mr. Charles showed pictures of the Cave Rock Intake Pipe in the Lake. The water level is so low there is minimal coverage and you can see the top of the cement anchor holding the pipe down. This is a real concern. The intake pipe should be at least 15 feet below the water. He also discussed that the water treatment plants cannot run 24 hours a day and if the level drops too much that could happen because the water treatment facility is trying to keep up with system demands.

Vice Chairwoman McDermid asked how much time is needed for maintenance on the treatment facilities. Tim DeTurk, Superintendent Utility System, responded each plant differs.

Commissioner Thaler commented we have very little control on the Lake level. Douglas County residents could start conserving water but somewhere else they might not. Carl Ruschmeyer, Public Work Director, stated during the summer they have to stop all irrigation in the Uppaway Water District. Commissioner Thaler asked about water rights. Mr. Ruschmeyer responded there is a small buffer of available water rights so they have a safety net for the future.

Mr. Charles provided Lake level projections along with water system impacts. The impacts include: 1) system capacity; 2) fire flow capacity; 3) operational time; 4) maintenance; and 5) risk of system damage. Recommendations to the Board are: 1) declare a Stage 1 Drought Warning – immediately; 2) declare a Stage 2 Severe Drought – when Lake drops to 6,221.5 feet; 3) Cave Rock Intake Upgrades; and 4) Uppaway Well Rehab.

Mr. Charles and the Commissioners discussed how to enforce restrictions with no water meters and not knowing the total amount of vacation rentals at the Lake. They discussed talking to property management agencies and landscaping companies. Vice Chairwoman McDermid believes the residents of the Tahoe Basin will be good about water conservation and will comply with the restrictions.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)**

No public comment.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Doug N. Johnson, Chairman  
Douglas County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Kathy Lewis, Clerk-Treasurer

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